



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

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"For Seventy-Five Years The Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself"

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 - MAY 4, 2011

EDITORIAL

Thank You Mr. Mayor!

Thank you for standing with residents of the Crenshaw Corridor. With your support, transportation projects of vital importance to the South Los Angeles community and commuters throughout the County are close to becoming a reality. They are: the placing of a train station in Leimert Park Village as part of the Crenshaw-to-LAX line, and the undergrounding of the train through Park Mesa Heights.

It is inconceivable to our community that the Crenshaw-to-airport line could actually bypass the heart of the Crenshaw community and omit a stop in Leimert Park. As for the line through Park Mesa Heights, the community has consistently opposed having the rail run down the middle of Crenshaw Boulevard instead of under ground.

So this page, which takes note of allies, thanks Michael D. Antonovich.

That's right, Mayor Antonovich. The fifth district county supervisor is currently

serving a term as the "mayor" of Los Angeles County, a title that comes with his chairmanship of the Board of Supervisors.

Mayor Antonovich is also a member of the Metro Board and has stood with Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas in the struggle to make these crucial features of the Crenshaw Corridor a reality. Antonovich, whose district is bordered by the Kern, San Bernardino and Ventura County lines, provided the necessary second to Ridley-Thomas' motion and voted to include a station at Leimert Park Village at Vernon and underground the light rail line from 48th to 60th near Park Mesa Heights at a recent Metro committee meeting.

The full Metro Board votes today on the matter, and its decision could shape economic development, traffic patterns and safety issues in the Crenshaw Corridor for generations to come.

We hope we will have the opportunity to use this page to publicly thank the Mayor of the

City of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa, after this morning's Metro Board meeting. After all, the residents of Leimert Park and Park Mesa Heights actually are his constituents and are counting on his support today.

The mayor's vote—Villaraigosa's, we mean—along with that of his three appointees, is critical to the success of efforts to build the \$1.7 billion Crenshaw-LAX line the right way. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has championed this cause, but the fact is he can't win—we can't win—without Villaraigosa's backing.

So Crenshaw corridor voters will be watching what happens closely. We are ready, hoping and waiting to thank both mayors.

Likewise, we hope any Metro board members considering a future run for mayor will appreciate the weight this vote carries in our community—and the weight our community's votes will carry when we support those who have supported us.

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